

Task Order No. 3
Jones and Stokes Associates, Contract No. B-59818

Description of No Action Alternative and Cumulative Impacts Projects
and
Description of Affected Environment /Existing Conditions

Task Description

Contractor will assist CALFED Bay-Delta Program staff in describing the No Action Alternative and Cumulative Impacts Projects that involve preparation of environmental documentation affecting the environment of the North Delta Study Area. The No Action Alternative describes future conditions that would be in place in the absence of the proposed alternatives. The No Action Alternative serves as the National Environmental Policy Act baseline that will be used as a basis for comparison of other alternatives.

Contractor will assist CALFED Bay-Delta Program staff in describing the Affected Environment /Existing Conditions that involve preparation of environmental documentation affecting the environment of the North Delta Study Area. The California Environmental Quality Act requires a description of existing environmental conditions as a baseline for comparing the impacts of alternatives. Additionally, the National Environmental Policy Act requires a description of the existing conditions in order to give the reader an understanding of the present circumstances.

To the extent practicable, the contractor will utilize the process and information developed for the CVPIA Programmatic EIS and recent Bay-Delta system planning efforts.

Task Items for No Action Alternative/Cumulative Impacts:

1. Contractor will work with the CALFED Bay-Delta Program staff to develop No Action Alternative and Cumulative Impact screening criteria. Final screening criteria will include methods to determine what projects, plans, etc. should be included in the No Action Alternative and the Cumulative Impact sections.
2. Contractor will develop draft scenarios, including rationale, for defining the temporal limits of the projected conditions. Contractor will recommend which scenario they consider to be the most appropriate along with rationale for their decision. Following review by CALFED staff, contractors will develop a final recommendation.
3. Contractor will develop a list of "Reasonable and Foreseeable" projects, plans, etc. that could occur in the future in the absence of (No Action Alternative projects) or concurrently with (Cumulative Impacts list) the alternatives. Contractor will collect existing data to evaluate which projects, plans, etc. should be included in the No Action Alternative or Cumulative Impacts list.

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4. Contractor will work with CALFED Bay-Delta Program staff in applying the screening criteria to data collected to sort through the projects, plans, etc. and identify those that will become part of the No Action Alternative or Cumulative Projects List. Justification will be prepared for the screening decisions.
5. Contractor will prepare a draft report documenting the work prepared in action items 1 through 4 and the projects, plans, etc. that will be included in the No Action Alternative and the Cumulative Impacts list. Contractor will assist CALFED Bay-Delta Program staff in describing how the projects, plans, etc. will likely be operated, maintained, regulated, etc. in the future. Contractor will also include in the draft report a description of the likely operations, maintenance, regulatory climate, etc. that will exist in the future.
6. Contractor will assist CALFED Bay-Delta Program staff in preparing presentation packages and mailout for BDAC, CALFED and the public which cover the revised list of projects, plans, etc. that will be part of the No Action Alternative or Cumulative Impacts Projects and their assumptions regarding their implementation, operation, maintenance, etc.
7. Following receipt of comments at the workshop, from the public and CALFED, the contractor will prepare a final report.

Task Items for Affected Environment/Existing Conditions:

1. Contractor will assist CALFED Bay-Delta Program staff in describing the existing resource conditions that are currently in place. The description will reflect the level of detail agreed upon for describing resources and analyzing consequences. Items to be described include hydrologic conditions, reservoir operating criteria, surface and groundwater quantities and qualities, fish populations and habitat, etc. The descriptions also will include an historical perspective of the existing conditions. To describe the existing conditions, the contractor will complete the following tasks:
 - develop criteria for selection of resources conditions to be described and the historical period to be considered for each issue area;
 - review the existing Central Valley Project Improvement Act Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) existing conditions data base as well as the data base for recent Delta planning actions such as DWR's South Delta Project, Contra Costa County's Los Vaqueros Project and the Delta Wetlands Program;

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- identify and collect pertinent data which is not available. Prior to actual collection of data, contractor will provide CALFED Bay-Delta Program staff with a summary of the data to be collected, rationale for collection, process to be followed in collecting the data, time and cost required;
- prepare a draft report documenting the work completed in the three previous tasks including rationale for screening decisions regarding selection of issue areas and historical time frame. Assist CALFED Bay-Delta Program staff in preparing presentation packages for a workshop, the public, CALFED and BDAC as well as a mailout; and
- prepare technical reports which describe each of the selected issue areas and takes into account information provided by the public and agencies. Issues areas may be combined when it will minimize duplication. The technical reports will not include any analysis.

Deliverable Items for No Action Alternative/Cumulative Impacts:

- 1a. Provide draft No Action Alternative screening criteria,
- 1b. Provide final No Action Alternative screening criteria,
- 2a. Provide draft list of scenarios for defining temporal limits of projected conditions,
- 2b. Provide final list of scenarios for defining temporal limits of projected conditions,
- 3a. Provide draft list of "Reasonable and Foreseeable" projects, plans, etc. to be included in the No Action Alternative or Cumulative Impacts list,
- 3b. Provide final list of "Reasonable and Foreseeable" projects, plans, etc. to be included in the No Action Alternative or Cumulative Impacts list,
- 4a. Use the screening criteria to identify those projects that will become part of the No Action Alternative or Cumulative Projects List and provide a draft list of the screened projects. Provide draft description of how the projects, plans, etc. are likely be operated, maintained, regulated, etc.,
- 4b. Provide final list of the screened projects. Provide a final description of how the projects, plans, etc. are likely be operated, maintained, regulated, etc.,

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- 5a. Assist CALFED in preparing a draft presentation packages for a workshop and mailout for BDAC, CALFED and the public which covers materials produced in item 4,
- 5b. Assist CALFED in preparing a final presentation packages and mailout for BDAC, CALFED and the public which covers materials produced in item 4,
- 6a. Provide a draft report reflecting input and comments from CALFED and the public on item 5,
- 6b. Provide a final report reflecting input and comments from CALFED and the public on item 5,

Deliverable Items for *No Project Alternative/Existing Conditions*:

- 1a. Provide a draft report of the existing resource conditions that are currently in place as described in Specific item 7 including associated bullet items,
- 1b. Provide a final technical report of the existing resource conditions that are currently in place as described in Specific item 7 and associated bullet items,